



<http://israel.usembassy.gov/consular/niv/index.aspx>

<http://israel.usembassy.gov/consular/acs/index.aspx>

CONSULAR ROUND-UP

NIV Announces New Online Visa Application Process

As of February 16, 2010 all non-immigrant visa applicants at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv need to complete only a single online application known as the DS-160.

The DS-160 is designed to:

- Replace the three forms currently used
- Leverage interactive technology to ensure every applicant provides the necessary information prior to their interview
- Improve the accuracy of the required information
- Achieve greater efficiencies in processing time

Tel Aviv's Consul General, Andrew Parker, notes "The DS-160 simplifies, secures, and standardizes the visa process for individuals wanting to travel to the United States. Other United States embassies around the world have reported an increase in customer satisfaction after the implementation of the new form."

As demand for United States visas continues to increase worldwide, the State Department has sought to make the process as user-friendly as possible. While answers on the form still need to be filled out in English, translations allow users to read the questions in Hebrew, Russian, or Arabic.

Applicants planning to travel to the United States need to:

- (1) To fill out the new form, applicants should visit the U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv website (<http://usembassy-israel.org.il>) or go directly to the following website: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>. The online form can be filled out in a single setting or users can save throughout the process in order to return at a later time. Additionally, saving the form will also allow users to retain the information in their records for future applications.
- (2) Once the DS-160 is completed, applicants will print a confirmation sheet and then schedule an interview

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Consular Staff listen to Rabbi Firer's description of Beit Marpe's Projects

Consular Staff Visit Ezra Le' Marpe Center

On November 17, Consular staff visited the headquarters and clinic of Ezra Le'Marpe Center in Bnei Brak. Under the direction of Rabbi Elimelech Firer, the foundation assists those in need, without regard to ethnic, religious or national background to obtain expert medical support gratis. The foundation is well-known for its work consulting with overseas medical experts on behalf of patients in Israel and for seeking Israelis' treatment abroad when necessary. The Consular section works closely with the foundation to issue emergency visas in cases requiring life-death medical treatment in the United States and to obtain assistance in cases involving the transfer of American citizens to the United States for medical care.

Israeli Court Gives Jail Time to Document Vendors

Owners of a business that helped Israelis obtain visas to the United States by using forged documents, Alon Tzalebyansky, and his father and partner Simcha Tzalebyansky were sentenced by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court to 21 months and 6 months in prison respectively. They were convicted of conspiracy to commit a crime, severe forgery, using a forged document, and severe attempt to falsely obtain funds.

The indictment states that in 2004, father and son Tzalebyansky established a business aimed at helping Israeli citizens obtain entry visas to the United States, including those who had been previously denied visas by the US Embassy. They supplied their clients with false and forged documents with the promise that they would be able to obtain visas. For every forged document they charged \$150, and every client who was able to obtain a visa was charged \$300. The two forged pay slips, university registration confirmations, bank statements, and housing lease agreements. They transferred the forged documents to the Embassy through two travel agencies. They instructed their clients to register at recognized institutes of higher education, present the registration forms to the Embassy, and immediately after cancel the registration and receive a refund.

In addition to the 21 months in prison, Alon Tzalebyansky was also sentenced to six months suspended prison time, and a fine of 15,000 shekels. Simcha Tzalebyansky was also sentenced to an additional six months of suspended time, and a fine of 10,000 shekels.

Judge Dorit Reich Shapira wrote in her verdict that "in order to receive money under false pretenses, the defendants acted systematically, knowingly, and daringly, and corrupted their clients into using forged documents at the Embassy in an effort to falsely obtain visas to the United States. These actions by the defendants served to undermine the trust of the US government in the actions of the Israeli government as a whole, and the honesty of the Israeli citizens who approach the Embassy in order to obtain a visa."



The Tel-Aviv-Jaffo Municipal Government hosted a tour for the Consular Section of the Israeli Opera House, including a backstage visit, an overview of the Israeli Opera, and an opportunity to try on costumes. The Consular staff took advantage of the opportunity to learn about this local institution while enjoying some down time.

If You See Something, Say Something

Help Protect the Integrity of the Visa Process

Contact us at nivtelaviv@state.gov or leave a message at 03-519-7552 if you information on possible visa fraud.

New Online Visa Application

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- (2) appointment through the VisaPoint website: <https://visainfo.us-visaservices.com>. Prior to their appointment at the Embassy, applicant must pay the applicable visa processing (MRV) fee at their local post office.
- (3) On the day of the interview, all applicants will need to arrive at the Embassy with their current and expired passports, the DS-160 confirmation sheet, the appointment confirmation sheet, the MRV fee receipt, one passport photo, and any information that s/he believes will help demonstrate to the Consular Officer his/her ties to Israel.

Got Agorot?

Fundraiser to Support Colleagues in Haiti

The Embassy's New Professionals Association (NPA), which includes several consular staff, spearheaded Tel Aviv's participation in a worldwide drive to support the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund that supports Haitian nationals employed at the U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince. There are almost 900 local employees in Haiti - 6 have been confirmed dead, 28 are unaccounted for and 6 confirmed injured, 3 seriously. The response to appeals has been immediate; thus far \$202,241 has been received from the staff of U.S. Embassies around the world and at the Department of State.

The Tel Aviv NPA proposed a loose change and cash drive to benefit the Emergency Fund for Haiti, called "Got Agorot?" Collection jars and flyers were distributed throughout the Em-



bassy. Soon, more than coins were filling the jars as members of the U.S. Mission also dropped in large bills. Both U.S. and Israeli currencies were accepted. A week later, NPA members gathered to sort the money into denominations to ease the Financial Management Office's task of converting the money into U.S. dollars. Several Consular Locally Employed Staff (LES) joined the effort to sort the coins. All told, \$2,180.37 was raised to support LES and their families in Haiti. The NPA knew there was money literally laying around —all it had to do was ask.



Consular Leadership Day

In celebration of the worldwide Consular Leadership Day, on Friday January 25th the Tel Aviv Consular staff visited the Moshav Zkenim Senior Citizens Home (pictured above), planted trees at Independence Park, and toured the Rothschild neighborhood in Tel Aviv.